

SMT. NAGAMMA C. KESHAVAMURTY (Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education).—Sir, I beg to lay—

Annual Administration Report of the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board for the year 1980-81

as required under Section 25 (3) of the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (Karnataka Act 16 of 1966)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Papers laid.

We shall go to the next item on the agenda

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

i) *reg : Outbreak of fire at Bijapur*

SRI S.S. ARAKERI.—Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue regarding sudden outbreak of fire at Bijapur as a result of which there was huge loss of Rs. 60 lakhs.

SRI H. C. SRIKANTIAH (Minister for Co-operation).—Sir, on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Revenue, I wish to make the following statement.—

The Deputy Commissioner, Bijapur, has reported that accidental fire broke out due to short circuit of electricity on 10-3-1982 in Bijapur City at 1900 hours, as a result of which 38 shops have been damaged. The Deputy Commissioner and the Special Deputy Commissioner have visited the spot of accident immediately.

Fire was brought under control with the help of fire fighters requisitioned from the Town Municipal Council—Jamakhandi and Municipal Corporation—Sholapur and Bagalkot.

The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bijapur has conducted a detailed enquiry into the accident and estimated the loss suffered by the victims of the accident. The loss sustained by the victims is estimated at Rs. 15.81 lakhs.

An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for providing gratuitous relief to the victims. Adequate funds will be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner to render relief according to requirements.

It is reported by the Deputy Commissioner that he has disbursed a cash relief of Rs. 2,000 to each of the victims.

The Deputy Commissioner has recommended for grant of interest free loan in respect of the loss sustained by the victims. He has recommended that at least 25% of the loss sustained subject to

maximum of Rs. 30,000 should be sanctioned as interest free loan by the Government.

However, the present policy of the Government is that no interest free loan should be sanctioned. On the other hand, it is open to the victims of the accident to raise loans from commercial banks and other financial agencies towards the loss not covered by cash relief. The interest payable and paid on such loans, subject to a maximum of Rs. 800, will be reimbursed by the Government for a period of two years. The State Government will also stand guarantee to the loans from commercial banks.

I can assure the Hon'ble Members that the Government would do its best to ensure that the persons who have suffered loss due to the fire accident are given adequate assistance for re-establishing themselves.

SRI S.H.S. BAKSHI.—Sir, the report of the Deputy Commissioner which has been submitted here saying that only fifteen to thirty to shops have been burnt is not correct. I myself visited the spot along with the Deputy Commissioner and the Special Deputy Commissioner there. The shops burnt were forty-eight in number and the estimated loss comes to nearly Rs. Sixty lakhs. The fire accident occurred on 10th. I wrote a letter as well as sent a Telegram to the Hon. Chief Minister on 11th March requesting him to grant the amount from his personal fund. I requested personally the Deputy Commissioner to phone before me for atleast Rs. 15 lakhs. Now, I find from the Statement that the amount granted by the Revenue Department is only Rs. five lakhs. I think, hardly Rs. 2,000 have been given per shop. Then I approached the Hon. Minister for Finance and requested him to see that atleast some loan is given to them. When the Hon. Minister for Housing S i Dharam Singh visited the spot, I requested him to see that atleast two fire fighters are granted to the Municipality. In this connection, may I take an opportunity to request the Government to kindly give permission for construction of Shastri Market. The necessary recommendation in this behalf has already been sent by the Divisional Commissioner, Belgaum.

SRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH.—It will be reconsidered. If the damage is more, it will be re-assessed and re-estimated and proper action will be taken.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಅರಕೇರಿ.—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ೧೦ನೇ ತಾರೀಖು ಈ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏನು ಬೆಂಕಿ ಹತ್ತಿ ಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಟ ಕಮಿಷನರು ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಯವರು ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಭಕ್ತಿಯವರು ಸ್ವಾಟ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದವು. ಸುಮಾರು ೪೫ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳು ಸುಟ್ಟುಹೋಗಿವೆ ತಾವು ಈಗ ಏನು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿದಿರಿ ೩೮ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳು ಸುಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಆದರೆ ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೂರವಾದುದು. ಎರಡನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಅವರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಏನು ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಯೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ವಸ್ವವನ್ನೂ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬೀದಿ ಪಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತಾವು ಈಗ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರತಕ್ಕಂಥಾ ಹಣ ಕಡಿಮೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

ಉಪಸಭಾವತಿಯವರು.—ಅವರು ಅದನ್ನು ರೀಎಕ್ಸಾಮಿನ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆಲ್ಲಾ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಅರಕೇರಿ.—ಮೂರನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಹೀಗೇನಾದರೂ ಅದರ ಸೊಲ್ಲಾಪುರದಿಂದ ಫೈರ್‌ಫೈಟರ್ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಬಿಜಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡ ಒಂದು ಫೈರ್‌ಫೈಟರ್ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅದುದರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಫೈರ್‌ಫೈಟರ್ ರಿಸರ್ವ್ ಆಗಿ ಇಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—The Minister has already stated that he will reconsider.

SRI S. S. ARAKERI.—Government cannot take it so lightly. ಮಾಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಈಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ ರಿಲೀಫ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ 3 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಬಿಜಾಪುರ ಸಿಟಿ ಈಗ ಬಹಳ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಇದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಈಗ ಹಾಳಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್ ಅನ್ನು 20-25 ರೂಪಾಯಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅಗತ್ಯ ಇದೆ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲೂ ಏತಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂಥಾ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಬಾರದು? I would request the Government to kindly consider.

SRI S.H.S. BAKSHI.—Sir, the President of the Municipality had approached the Government in person for a fire fighter and said that a cheque would be issued for Rs. three lakhs and fifty thousand. Still, the order has not been sent. I am reminding the Government to kindly attend to it immediately.

SRI H.C. SRIKANTAIAH.—That will be expedited.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—Sir, the Minister has stated that only Rs. five lakhs have been kept at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—He has promised also.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—He must issue necessary instructions for payment of this sum to the concerned persons who have suffered in the fire. How many people have been given this benefit of ex-gratia payment? Rs. two hundred have been paid at the first instance. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that interest-free loan will not be given. May I request the Minister to kindly reconsider the stand of the Government about interest-free loan?

SRI H.C. SRIKANTAIAH.—there is no such amount. That is the policy decision. Somehow or other relief could be given to the victims and that will be looked into.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—Sir, there is some discrepancy regarding the number of persons died. According to the Hon'ble Member Sri Bakshi it is 48, Hon'ble Member Sri Arakeri says that it is 45 and according to the Minister it is 38.

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—I have got the report of the Deputy Commissioner here and according to his report it is 38.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—Kindly take their representations into consideration in order to find out exact number.

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—Sir, The Assembly seems to have become a mini lounge. Some meetings are held on that side. That should be avoided.

(ii) *Reg. Strike by the labourers of Samyukta Karnataka, Hubli.*

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಜಿ. ಜರತಾರಗರ್.—ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಸುಯುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮಂಜುರ ಹೂಡಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

SAMYUKTHA KARNATAKA was covered under the employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 during 1957. The establishment was exempted under section 17 of the above Act. The Provident Fund of the employees working in Samyuktha Karnataka was administered by a Board of Trustees called the Loka Shikshana Trust Employees P.F. Trust, constituted according to the terms of exemption. It consisted of representatives of management and employees in equal numbers. The Board of Trustees were required, under the terms and conditions of the exemption to invest available provident Fund accumulations in the approved securities every month.

Karnataka Patrika Private Ltd., became the employers of Samyuktha Karnataka from 1974 onwards. The exemption continued and the Board of Trustees continued to administer the funds under the name of Karnataka Patrika Private Ltd., EPF Trust. JAYA-KARNATAKA NEWS PRINTERS (P) Ltd., became the employer of SAMYUKTHA KARNATAKA during 1977. The exemption continued and the Fund was being administered by the Board of Trustees,, under the style of J.N.P. employees P.F. Trust.

The exemption granted to the establishment was cancelled during August, 1980, for violation of the terms under which exemption was granted. After the cancellation of exemption the employer is responsible to implement the various provisions of the Act and the scheme as an unexempted establishment. Mainly, the employer must remit the contribution collected from the employees to the EPF every month before 15th. On cancellation of exemption the investments made in the various securities by the above mentioned Trusts should have been transferred to the Board of Trustees of E. P. F. Organisation. These transfers have not been effected. The amount involved is about Rs. 20 lakhs. The Provident Fund authorities cannot settle the P.F. account of outgoing members since the securities have not been transferred to them and as such they were not in possession of the amount. Once these securities are transferred to the Board of Trustees of EPF the PF. authorities can settle the PF. accounts of the outgoing members.